

Kindergarten

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **Curriculum Outcomes/Religious Education**

At this level Catholic School and Religious Education children will be presented with the following beliefs and practices, and at the conclusion of this level demonstrate a knowledge of these beliefs and an understanding of how these practices are integral to living out the Catholic faith in a manner appropriate for their age and ability.

The following curriculum guidelines are categorized within the “fundamental tasks of catechesis: helping to know, to celebrate and to contemplate the mystery of Christ.” (GDC 85-87; NDC pp. 59-63)

Key Concepts

- 1 | Knowledge of the Faith
- 2 | Liturgical Education
- 3 | Moral Formation
- 4 | Teaching to Pray
- 5 | Education for Community Life
- 6 | Missionary Initiation

Key Concepts

1 Knowledge of the Faith

■ Catechesis gives believers a knowledge of the content of God's self-revelation which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and helps them know and understand the mysteries of the faith we proclaim in the Creed. (cf. NDC p. 60)

Children being catechized in Kindergarten will:

- a. identify God as the Creator of all things (CCC 279, 315-320)
- b. understand that God created all people in his image and likeness, male and female he created us, Genesis 1:27 (CCC 355, 356, 357)
- c. know that God is the Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — and that we demonstrate this knowledge when we make the Sign of the Cross (CCC 253-255)
- d. know that Jesus is the Son of God and a gift from God to all of us (CCC 422)
- e. understand that God takes the initiative in revealing Himself to us in the Bible which is God's holy Word (CCC 81)
- f. understand that in the Bible we find the life of Jesus (CCC 461-463)
- g. know that both the Bible and the Church tell us about God and how God wants us to live (CCC 81-83)
- h. identify that Mary is the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, also (CCC 411, 437, 490)
- i. identify Joseph as the foster father of Jesus (CCC 437)
- j. know that babies are a gift from God (CCC 2319)
- k. recognize that Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family and loved and cared for each other (CCC 553, 564)
- l. describe how God has blessed us with a family (parents, siblings,) to love and care for each other (CCC 532-533, 2206)
- m. understand that God created us with feelings and we can share feelings with family and friends (CCC 2332)
- n. identify some events from the Bible:
 - The story of Creation, Genesis 1:1-2:3 and 2:4-2:25
 - The story of Noah and his ark, Genesis Chapters 6-7
 - The story of Jesus
 - Nativity, the angels, the shepherds, the magi, Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12 (CCC 423, 437)
 - Lost in the temple, Luke 2:41-52
 - Last Supper, Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14: 22-25; Luke 22:15-20
 - Death of Jesus, Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:25-30

- Resurrection of Jesus, Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10 (CCC 515)
- Ascension of Jesus, Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53

Some stories Jesus told, e.g.,

- Good Samaritan, Luke 10:29-37
- Lost Sheep, Luke 15:3-7

Some miracles Jesus performed, e.g.,

- Wedding Feast at Cana, John 2:1-11
- Raising of Jairus' Daughter, Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56

Some things Jesus said, e.g.,

- Blessing of the Children, Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17
- "Love One Another", John 15:12
- "I am the Good Shepherd", John 10:11, 14

- o. know that through Baptism we become, in a special way, children of God and members of the Church (CCC 1265-1267)
- p. understand that heaven is promised to those who love and obey God; in heaven we will see God and be happy with God forever (CCC 1023-1024, 1821, 2796)

2 Liturgical Education

■ Christ is present in the sacraments. The believer comes to know Christ intimately in the liturgical celebrations of the Church. Christ's saving action in the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the sacraments. This is especially true in regard to the Eucharist. Catholics experience the closest communion with Jesus on earth that is possible when they receive his living Body and his Precious Blood in Holy Communion. Catechesis should promote an active, conscious and genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church and an understanding of the doctrinal truths of the Creed which are its foundation. (cf. NDC p. 60)

Children being catechized in Kindergarten will:

- a. understand that the Church teaches us about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus throughout the year (CCC 1163-1171)
- b. indicate a knowledge of the Advent and Christmas seasons (CCC 524-526)
- c. indicate a knowledge of the Lenten and Easter seasons (CCC 540, 571, 1412, 1438)
- d. identify and celebrate some feasts of Mary, the mother of God as they occur in the liturgical year, e.g.,
 - Nativity of Mary, September 8
 - Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the USA, December 8
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, December 12

- Mary, Mother of God, January 1
 - Annunciation of the Lord, March 25 (CCC 2177, 1195)
- e. identify and celebrate some feasts of saints, (CCC 1195, 2030), e.g.,
- St. Therese of the Child Jesus, October 1
 - Guardian Angels, October 2
 - All Saints, November 1
 - St. Martin de Porres, November 3
 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, January 4
 - St. John Neumann, January 5
 - St. Francis De Sales, patron/Diocese of Wilmington, January 24
 - St. Katharine Drexel, March 3
 - St. Joseph, March 19
 - Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, July 14
- f. discuss the importance of the church, i.e., a place where Christians gather to pray and celebrate the sacraments, especially Eucharist; facilitate this by visiting the church and becoming familiar with e.g., altar, baptismal font, statues, crucifix (CCC 1181-1186)
- g. recognize, in general, that the Mass is a special prayer of the Church and the children take part by participating as much as they can e.g., signing at the gospel, sign of peace, reciting the Our Father, responses, standing, sitting, listening, and singing (CCC 1323-1327)

3 Moral Formation

■ Catechesis must transmit the content of Christ's moral teachings and conform the believer to Christ through personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness to Christ and His Church's teaching in everyday life. As Catholics, we are called to carry the values of the Gospel and the luminous teaching of our Church into the public square. (cf. NDC p. 61)

Children being catechized in Kindergarten will:

- a. understand that our life is a gift from God and that we must care for our life (CCC 1926, 2258)
- b. know that God calls us to be kind and loving to our friends and neighbors (CCC 1822-1823)
- c. realize, in an age appropriate way, the love, respect and obedience children should show in the family (CCC 2214, 2216-2217)
- d. explain how we should respect and care for God's gift of creation (CCC 299, 2402)

- e. recognize the concept of sin as disobedience to God (CCC 397-399)
- f. realize that God gave us laws or rules to live by and Jesus came to earth to teach us how to live and to obey God's laws. (CCC 1950-1953)

4 Teaching to Pray

■ Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to a disposition of prayer and reflection. Jesus' entire life, death and Resurrection are an offering to the Father. The Our Father is the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray and the model of all Christian prayer. The handing on of the Our Father is a summary of the whole Gospel and a true act of catechesis. The most effective catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer. (cf. NDC p. 61)

Children being catechized in Kindergarten will:

- a. explain, in an age appropriate way, that prayer is a gift from God, a talking to and with God and that the life of prayer is remembering God's presence with us (CCC 2559, 2564, 2565)
- b. know that in prayer we thank God and praise God (CCC 2644-2649)
- c. understand that in the Bible we find prayers that we can say, e.g., The Our Father, Luke 11:2-4, Matthew 6:9-13; The Hail Mary, Luke 1:26-33 and also, we pray to God in our own words (CCC 2697, 2757, 2759)
- d. know that Christians begin their prayers with the Sign of the Cross, asking the Lord to bless us as he always does (CCC 2157)
- e. realize that prayer may be said at anytime or in any place but special places for prayer are the home, Church, and in classes where we learn about God the Father, his Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (CCC 2743, 2659-2660; NDC p. 203)
- f. know the common Catholic prayers, the Church teaches: "The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, but it is important to help learners savor their meaning." (CCC 2688) To accomplish this, begin slowly with phrases from the prayers, with the intention of the children learning these prayers in their entirety

Note: See Appendices of this Curriculum and of the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Sign of the Cross
 Our Father
 Hail Mary
 Glory Be
 Blessing before and after meals.
 Morning Prayer/Prayer at bedtime

5 Education for Community Life

■ Jesus said to his disciples: “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 13:34) This command guides the disciple’s life in the Catholic Church and global community. Catechesis should encourage an apprenticeship in Catholic living, a spirit of simplicity and humility, special concern for the poor, care for the alienated and the immigrant stranger, fraternal correction and love, common prayer and mutual forgiveness. Members of the Body of Christ receive special graces and gifts to help build up the Church. Ecumenical charity and sensitivity as well as a zeal for unity among Christians are emphasized. (NDC pp. 61-62)

Children being catechized in Kindergarten will:

- a. know that Jesus asks us to love God and love our neighbor, John 13:34-35
- b. determine that when other children are doing something wrong we should tell them to stop or tell parents/teachers, Matthew 18:12,15 (CCC 1829)
- c. understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church that we might all be one and at the same time to understand that not everyone is a Catholic and that some of our relatives, playmates and neighbors may worship in other Christian religions (denominations) that believe in Jesus Christ (CCC 816, 818)
- d. know that with others in our family, parish, school we practice the charity of the Lord in good works and love for all (CCC 2179)
- e. realize that we share love in community and we help one another be healthy and happy (CCC 2288)
- f. understand that God has entrusted to all human beings responsibility for the world and all its creatures (CCC 373)
- g. demonstrate the ability to express sorrow when we have hurt others and forgive others when they say they are sorry for what they did, Matthew 18:22 (CCC1657, 2227, 2840, 2845)

6 Missionary Initiation

■ Catechesis seeks to form disciples of Christ who bear witness to their Catholic faith in society. A missionary spirit of evangelization is cultivated and nourished by the teaching and attitudes of Jesus Christ. Every means should be used to encourage vocations to the Priesthood and religious life and to awaken special missionary vocations. Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the “seeds of the Word” that can allow for both “inter-religious dialogue” and “evangelization.” (cf. GDC 86)

Children being catechized in Kindergarten will:

- a. realize that Jesus asks us to share the Good News of the Gospel and our Catholic faith with those we meet, Matthew 28:19-20
- b. understand that many people in our parish assist the priest at Mass, (altar servers, readers, song leaders, extraordinary ministers of communion, ushers, etc.) and someday they too, may assist at Mass (CCC 897, 903)
- c. know that we should pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life to continue the work of the Church, Luke 10:1-2 (CCC 1587,1595,1986)
- d. explain that wherever they are, school, home, church, stores, home of friends, they are followers of Jesus and their behavior should show that they are Christians (CCC 2013)

Scripture References for Catechists/ Parents and for Stories the Children Can Tell

Genesis 1:1-27	...Creation story
Luke 1:26-33	...Annunciation
Luke 2:1-20	...Jesus' Birth, Shepherds' Visit
Matthew 2:1-12	...Visit of Magi
Luke 2:41-52	...The Child Jesus in the Temple
Luke 11:2-4 Matthew 6:9-13	... The Our Father
Luke 10:29-37	...The Good Samaritan
Luke 15:3-7	...Lost Sheep
Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56	...Raising of Jairus' Daughter
Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16	...Blessing of the Children
Luke 18:15-17	
John 15:12	...Love One Another
John 10:11,14	...I am the Good Shepherd
Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25;	...Last Supper
Luke 22:15-20	
Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41;	...Death of Jesus
Luke 23:44-49; John 19:25-30	
Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8;	...Resurrection of Jesus
Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10	